



Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 27th, 2014

Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

We submit this testimony on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state on the following:

S.B. No. 219 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONTRIBUTION RATE.

We strongly oppose this bill. We understand the concerns by those who are proponents of this legislation, however, by putting this burden on municipal workers who have had little or no pay increases over the past several years is a burden that they shouldn't have to carry.

Many municipal workers are not covered by social security and they contribute their earning into the MERS system with the understanding they will have retirement security. This legislation doubles the costs to these workers without doubling the end result. We are happy to work with all parties to resolve the concerns, however, this legislation is a untenable and we will work to make sure it is not enacted into law.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd G. Berch

CT AFL-CIO